

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6208**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1234

**NOTE PREPARED:** Nov 14, 2002

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Election of township assessor.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Duncan

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires the election of a township assessor in Laughery Township, Ripley County.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2003.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Summary:* Current law does not require election of an assessor unless the population of the township exceeds 8,000. Townships with a population between 5,000 and 8,000 may pass a resolution requiring an elected assessor. Under the bill, Laughery Township would require additional expenditures for the salary and per diem for an elected township assessor. Based on a sample of 10 townships with a population between 8,000 to 10,000, the annual salary of township assessors ranged from \$8,000 to \$33,000 in 2001. The salaries of township assessors are set by the county fiscal body. The election of an assessor would also require minimal expenditure by Ripley County to modify ballots to include the assessor's office on the ballot. The bill would require the assessor to be elected beginning with the 2006 general election.

Currently, Laughery Township has a trustee who is responsible for assessing duties. The annual salary for the Laughery Township Trustee was approximately \$8,500 in 2001. Salaries of trustees are set by the township legislative body. Trustees have several responsibilities which may include assessing personal property.

*Election information-* For the 2000 general election, Ripley County used optical scan voting machines in 27 official precincts. The average cost of an optical scan ballot was \$0.30 at the time.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Indiana State Board of Accounts, (317) 232-2520; Election Systems and Software (317) 913-0230; Indiana Election Division (317) 232-3939.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Baker, 317-232-9851